WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Coordination in Poverty Alleviation Schemes

*46. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for alleviating poverty in rural areas of the country it is necessary to remove unemployment;

(b) if so, whether is is also a fact that many schemes are being run by Government at present for providing employment opportunities;

(c) whether it is also a fact that people are not getting desired benefits of these schemes in the absence of mutual coordination among all the schemes; and

(d) if so, the details of corrective steps Government propose to take for proper implementation of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Removal of unemployment is one of the necessary measures for the alleviation of poverty in the rural areas of the country.

The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing two major employment generation Schemes namely Swarnyajanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) to provide self and wage employment to the families living below the poverty line in the rural areas of the country. The Government have also launched a new wage employment Scheme namely National Food For Works Programme (NFFWP) in 150 most backward districts of 27 States of the country to generate supplementary wage employment and providing food security through creation of need based economic, social and community assets in these districts. The NFFWP will be open to the rural poor who are in need of wage employment-arid desire to do manual unskilled work. This programme will be replaced by the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the Bill for which has been introduced in the Parliament.

In order to implement the schemes properly, the Ministry of Rural Development places special emphasis on monitoring and evaluation of its programmes being implemented through review by Union Ministers with Chief Ministers and other State Ministers concerned with the programmes of the Ministry, Performance Review Committee, Area Officer's Scheme,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Field Visits, Monitoring of Release of Funds, Periodical Progress Reports, Concurrent and Quick Evaluation Studies and Impact Assessment Studies. The State Government have been advised to a here to multi pronged strategy including awareness about the Rural Development Schemes at grass root level, transparency, accountability and social audit by the Gram Panchayat.

Indo-US MoU on Military Medicine

*47. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether India and the United States signed a MoU for training and academic cooperation in military medicine that will open up new frontiers in research and education for armed forces of both the countries;

(b) if so, the main aims and objects of the MoU;

(c) to what extent US has agreed to help and assist India in health and research in the Army; and

(d) by when the implementation of the MoU is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) An Agreement on Academic Cooperation in Military Medicine between the Ministry of Defence of India and the Department of Defence of the United State of America (USA) was signed on April 13, 2005.

(b) The main aim and objective of the agreement is the exchange of professional military medical knowledge between the armed forces of the USA and India to enhance the preparedness of the military medical personnel of both countries.

(c) The Agreement will help the Indian Armed Forces Medical Services get increased access to medical research and training in some of the leading US medical institutions associated with the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences. Registration and tuition fees of participants in programmes under the Agreement will be waived.

(d) The Agreement is effective from the date of its signing.